

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-32 remain in the application. Claim 2 was previously cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 12, 16, 31 and 32 are currently amended. Claim 33 is currently cancelled.

The present response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service under 37 CFR § 1.8 with sufficient postage as First Class mail within two (2) months of the mailing date of the Final Office Action mailed on June 15, 2004.

Claim Objections:

Claims 31 and 32 were objected to because of informalities. Claims 31 and 32 are currently amended to correct the informalities.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 102 and § 103:

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6-14, 16-19 and 33 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,147,876 to Yamaguchi et al.

Claims 5 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being anticipated by US Patent 6,147,876 to Yamaguchi et al. in view of US Patent 5,796,591 to Dalal et al.

Claims 20-32 and 34 were found to contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 are amended in response to the Examiner's comments recited in the Office Action mailed June 15, 2004. Accordingly, claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 are amended herein to recite the subject matter found to be allowable in independent claims 27 and 32. Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16 are believed to be now allowable over the cited art.

Claims 3-5 are allowable at least as depending from now allowable claim 1.

Claims 7-11 are allowable at least as depending from now allowable claim 6.

Claims 13-15 are allowable at least as depending from now allowable claim 12.

Claims 17-19 are allowable at least as depending from now allowable claim 16.

Claim 33 is cancelled, whereby the rejection is made moot.

Allowable Subject Matter:

The Examiner is thanked for allowing claims 20-30 and 34.

The Examiner is thanked for acknowledging that claim 32 contains allowable subject matter and noticing that claim 32 would be allowable if amended to overcome the objection set forth in the Office Action mailed June 15, 2004. Claim 32 is presently amended to overcome the objection.

Serial No. 10/052,715  
Amdt. dated August 15, 2004  
Reply to Office action of June 15, 2004

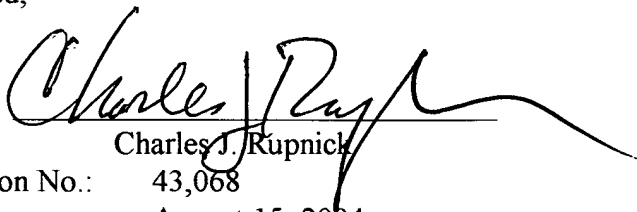
The Applicants have also incorporated the patentable subject matter of allowed claim 27 and allowable claim 32 into all the base claims 1, 6, 12 and 16 in different scope. Claims 1, 6, 12 and 16 are now believed to be allowable, and claims depending from respective allowable base claims 1, 6, 12 and 16 are believed to be allowable.

The claims being in condition for allowance, issue of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has questions or wishes to discuss any aspect of the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

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